

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 40 and 44 are amended to correct some obvious errors. Claims 27-55 remain pending, with claims 27, 40 and 45 being independent claims.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 27-39, drawn to self-adhesive polyurethane matrix, classified in class 424, subclass 448.
- II. Claims 40-44, drawn to self-adhesive [polyurethane] matrix, classified in class 424, subclass 448.
- III. Claims 45-55, drawn to a method of making self-adhesive matrix, classified in class 424, subclass 448.

The Examiner further has requested that an election of species between foamed polyurethane and unfoamed polyurethane (in the case of the inventions of Groups I and II) and between flexographic printing, screen printing and contactless spraying (in the case of the invention of Group III) be made.

ELECTION

In order to be responsive to the requirement for restriction, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention set forth in **claims 27 to 39** (invention I as identified in the Restriction Requirement) and **unfoamed polyurethane** as elected species. Currently all of claims 27-39 read on the elected species.

TRAVERSE

Applicants respectfully submit that a restriction requirement is inappropriate in this case. In particular, the Examiner has already examined the subject matter of all of the present independent claims, i.e., claims 27, 40 and 45. Specifically, claim 27 corresponds generally to original claim 5. Claim 40 corresponds generally to original claim 1. Claim 45 corresponds generally to original claim 17. Accordingly, the subject matter to be examined has remained the same and for this reason alone, there is no serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required.

The Examiner appears to take the position that present dependent claim 29 justifies the requirement for restriction. However, claim 29 has been presented together with a Request for Continued Examination and the subject matter to be examined has not changed thereby. For example, dependent claim 29 could have been presented only after receipt of a non-final Office Action on the present set of claims without claim 29. In this case it would have been even more apparent that a restriction and election of species requirement is unwarranted.

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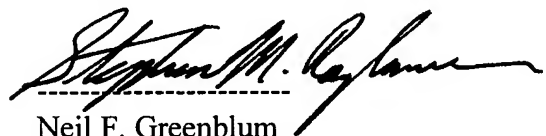
Regarding the election of species requirement, it is noted that original claim 5 recited both foamed and unfoamed polyurethane, wherefore the Examiner has already examined both of these alternatives as well.

It is further pointed out that even if one were to disregard the facts set forth above, the classification of the inventions of Groups I, II and III in the same class and the same subclass is at least a strong indication that there is no undue burden on the Examiner, wherefore a requirement for restriction is not appropriate in this case.

Applicants submit that for at least all of the foregoing reasons, the present Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn, which action is respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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